

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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P R 121355Z MAY 76

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4741

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0616

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, SA

SUBJECT: WORLD AIRWAYS CHARTER FLIGHT CLEARANCE

REF: DHAHRAN 0609

1. CONGENOFF TODAY DISCUSSED WORLD AIRWAYS PLANNED MAY 12 FLIGHT 11432 WITH DHAHRAN CIVAIR DIRECTOR DHAMDI AND DHAHRAN BASE COMMANDER'S OFFICE TO CONFIRM THAT SPECIAL APPROVAL REPORTED REFTEL STILL FIRM. GHAMDI CONFIRMED THAT OPERATING PERMIT WILL BE GRANTED, AND BASE COMMANDER'S OFFICE SUPPLIED US WITH COPY OF LETTER SENT TO GHAMDI TODAY ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE CONCERNING WORLD AIRWAYS FLIGHTS PLANNED FOR MAY 12, 19, AND 24. LOCAL FIRM HANDLING TUMPANE SHIPMENTS, SAUDI TOURIST AND TRAVEL BUREAU, ADDED THAT FLIGHT 11432 SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE DHAHRAN 2100 LOCAL MAY 12 AND DEPART FOR HONK KONG 1400 LOCAL MAY 13.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM TELECON WITH EMBASSY'S CON COUNSELLOR THAT CIVAIR DIRECTOR JIDDA IS INFORMING EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT APPLICATIONS FOR OPERATING PERMITS TO DHAHRAN AIRPORT MUST BE SUBMITTED HERE. DHAHRAN CIVAIR DIRECTOR GHAMDI, BASE COMMANDER, SAUDI TOURIST AND TRAVEL BUREAU, AND ARAMCO (WHICH AHS LARGE NUMBER OF CHARTER CARGO FLIGHTS INTO DHAHRAN) ALL AGREE APPLICATION MUST BE MADE TO CIVAIR DIRECTOR JIDDA. GHAMDI ADDS THAT WORLD AIRWAYS SHOULD ALSO COORDINATE WITH SAUDIA AIRLINES BECAUSE OF TRAFFIC RIGHTS. GHAMDI NORMALLY VERY COOPERATIVE

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IN MATTERS OF CONCERN TO CONGEN, BUT HE STATES FIRMLY THAT

WORLD AIR MUST FOLLOW NORMAL PROCEDURE AND NOT CONTINUE TO SEND AIRCRAFT BEFORE APPROVAL OBTAINED.

3. IT APPEARS ONE DIFFICULTY MAY BE THAT SAUDIA AIRLINES IS NEGOTIATING A GNERAL SALES AGREEMENT WITH WORLD AIRWAYS AND BELIEVES THESE DELAYS WILL MAKE THE U.S. FIRM MORE AMENABLE TO AGREEMENT ON SAUDIA TERMS. ANOTHER PROBLEM MAY BE CONFUSION CAUSED BY NUMEROUS RECENT SCHEDULE CHANGES BY WORLD AIRWAYS. FOR EXAMPLE, THREE OPERATING PERMITS WERE OBTAINED WITHIN PAST FEW WEEKS, BUT ONLY ONE NOW VALID, I.E.

A) PERMIT OBTAINED FOR APRIL 25 FLIGHT, WHICH WAS NOT FLOWN, AND PERMIT NOW CONSIDERED CANCELLED,

B) PERMIT OBTAINED FOR MAY 15 FLIGHT, BUT WAS ACTUALLY USED TO COVER MAY 9 FLIGHT WHICH CAME WITHOUT PERMIT AND WAS IM-
POUNDED,

C) PERMIT OBTAINED FOR MAY 17 FLIGHT STILL VALID.

NOTE: THIS MEANS NO APPROVAL HAS BEEN GRANTED FOR PLANNED MAY 19, AND 24 FLIGHTS. (WORLD AIRWAYS INDICATED IN MAY 11 TELEX TO CONGEN THAT IT BELIEVES THOSE PERMITS HAVE ALREADY BEEN GRANTED.)

4. DEPARTMENT ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PASS ABOVE INFORMATION TO WORLD AIRWAYS SOONEST AND URGE COMPANY TO CLEAR UP THE CONFUSION SURROUNDING ITS SCHEDULE OF FUTURE FLIGHTS, TO USE PROPER, NORMAL APPLICATION PROCEDURES, AND TO OBTAIN PERMITS BEFORE DISPATCHING AIRCRAFT.
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